(f) to (h) Special Team have made tentative assessment of the amounts due from the company. Findings of the Special Team and the developments thereafter are, however, being looked into afresh. The company have deposited Rs. 312.10 lakhs with the Government so far.

Discovery of gas in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan

*6. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime back gas was discovered in some wells in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what is the assessment of Government in this regard including its potential for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Exploration efforts by ONGC and OIL have resulted in establishment of geological reserves of about 4150 million cubic metres of gas in the Jaisalmer Basin. A commitment for supply of 50,000 M3 per day of gas to Rajasthan State Electricity Board for their proposed power project at Ramgarh has been made. Commencement of commercial production of natural gas will depend upon the likely investments for utilisation of such gas.

Closure of loss making public sector enterprises

*7. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations for the closure of loss making public sector enterprises and also suggesting that the private sector should be permitted to run them without any pre-conditions;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to close down the loss making public sector units; and

(d) if not, what other steps Government propose to take to make the loss making public sector units into profit making units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Suggestions for improving the working of public sector enterprises keep coming to Government and these include suggestions for closure of loss making enterprises or for permitting the private sector to run them. The Government reviews the performance of each public sector enterprise individually and takes appropriate steps for effecting improvements. Some of the steps taken in this direction are—financial restructuring, upgradation of technology, administrative reorganisation etc. In case, a public sector unit has no possibility for improvement, it may have to be closed down.

Hiring of Helicopters by ONGC from Foreign Companies

*8. SHRI J. S. RAJU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has started hiring helicopters from foreign helicopter companies; and

(b) if so, what is the annual expenditure incurred on this account?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) ONGC have placed a firm telex order on M/s. Canadian Helicopters, Canada on 10-4-1990 for the charter hire of two large size helicppters for a period of three months at a total cost of Rs. 3.11 crores. The helicopters have not yet commenced operations.